



ÖSTERREICHISCHE GALERIE
BELVEDERE



GUSTAV KLIMT
JUDITH I



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Edited by Andy Taylor

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OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS

1. Once upon a time, I intimated that I would like to retire from my various Officer positions. Since then I've had my 80th birthday, and gained rather than lost tasks. I am getting older and forgetful, as several members have justly remarked - and sooner or later will become a definite liability to the Society instead of a possible asset. So, I shall put my foot down with a firm hand, and if I survive until the 2025 AGM will decline nomination for any Officer posts. **Replacements, your time has come!**
2. **Welcome to my 100th issue of 'AUSTRIA'!** Overleaf is the Editorial from my first edition; I leave it to others to evaluate how many promises have been kept. I confess that "in English only" has not been adhered to.
3. We have decided to hold our **2024 Fest** at York on **Friday 19 to Sunday 21 July 2024**, in the same hotel as the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. This is the York Fair weekend. Some meetings will be held together, some will be separate. If you wish to attend, complete and return the form ASAP!
4. **The 2024 "Brown Cow" joint meeting** is on **Saturday 10 August 2024, 10am-4pm**. Details later.
5. **Stampex 2024** will be held a month later than usual, on **23-25 October 2024**, still at the Business Design Centre in Islington but in a different (and smaller, thus cheaper to rent) space.
6. I have booked a meeting room at the international exhibition **EuroPhilEx**, being held at the British National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from **1pm till 5pm on Friday 8 May 2025**. The working title is "The Empire Strikes Back"! Collectors from anywhere in the world of what is or was Austrian are invited; 40 chairs will be provided; there will be 8 display frames each taking 16 A4 sheets (or 8 A3s); the further you travel the greater your chance of getting a display slot. Details from, and slot-bookings to, Andy Taylor. All the associated societies we can find (only 3 so far) will be invited, and while the exhibition may charge admission our meeting is free. Attenders from outside Great Britain wishing to display may benefit from bringing high-quality copies instead of their valuable originals, lest their material be detained by Customs as is currently happening with British items being sent to Europe.
7. This stamp, issued in 2016, commemorates FRITZE LACKE which is actually a paint manufacturer. The



original drawn by the painter Adolf Karpellus represents a young painter's apprentice who has slipped on the freshly painted floor – performing a "Fritzelack", an expression used in colloquial Viennese when someone makes a spectacular fall. It seems appropriate to illustrate your Editor's entry to Vienna on his regular December visit; while ascending the escalator at Wien Mitte he suddenly found himself lying on his back, going up feet first. Severely damaged dignity, but nothing else external. Learnt a new word: das Steißbein. Visits to the Austrian National Library and the Belvedere furnished material for future articles; and Billa furnished ingredients for future goulashes as well as the compulsory bag of Mozart Balls.



Andy Taylor / President, Treasurer, Editor, Festmeister, Webmaster et hoc genus omne.

Eppur si muove - Und sie bewegt sich doch! - And yet it moves!

News from VOePh: Galileo Galilei's famous statement came to mind when the Austrian Post AG practically withdrew the tariff reform of September 1, 2023, regarding priority mail including labels, at a meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Council at the end of November. This is expected to happen from April 1, 2024. This promise was preceded by numerous protests from collectors and internal discussions between philatelists and the post office. What is pleasing is the fact that it has finally been recognized and accepted what a great cultural ambassador the small stamp really represents for Austria. And with that in mind, the Austrian Post gave the philatelic collectors another Christmas present, in which the Association of Austrian Philatelic Associations was able to participate: The request that had been made for years to issue make-up stamps has now been heard, and a block of 10 stamps is scheduled for issue on 14 February. It'll have 2 stamps of 5 different values, which will make it possible again to use old stocks for franking. [See "New Issues"]

EDITORIAL 127

It is with some trepidation that I sit looking at a blank ream of paper and begin to contemplate my first Editorial. 126 editions of AUSTRIA (and 63 Bulletins) have set a standard of breadth, depth and diversity of coverage that will be difficult to follow; but I will try. My aim will be to publish each quarter a mixture of new work, new ways of looking at old topics, Philatelic Intelligence (ie informed gossip), as well as older material which is in a language, publication or location inaccessible to most of our members.

What do I believe AUSTRIA is for? **To publish articles of philatelic relevance to those interested or specialising in the philately of Austria.** I want AUSTRIA to continue as the best English-language journal meeting that need. Granted, there is at present little competition! But the journals of other societies may provide a standard of comparison. I intend that our publication will continue to be clear and readable, with illustrations wherever possible.

We have settled down to 4 issues a year, each with 44 sides of A4. About 38 of these will be new articles - or updated old ones. This require the authors to conceive of, do the research for, find and translate relevant sources, find and process the illustrations, write the text, and lay out the finished page for one A4 sheet every working day. So, I shall remorselessly harass each and every one of you, to share your expertise (large or small) with your fellow members and with the philatelic world in general.

I will deem the country "Austria" to include the Austro-Hungarian empire as ruled by KFJ up to the Hungarian Compromise of Feb 1867; the Austrian empire till its end in 1918; and the territory of the present Republic of Austria - with a certain amount of fuzziness as the non-Austrian postal administrations settled down (eg the post-WWI use of Austrian stamps in today's Czech Republic).

When a simple question is asked, the cry "But surely everybody knows that!!" is often heard. Say the ASCGB has 200 members who stay on average 15 years. That's 13 new members each year. Assume we don't have more than one major article on a topic per year. Then each topic is new to 13 people, who do not have the specialist background of the author. So, we need to write and print suitable explanations, introductions, "new readers begin here" and so on.

For whom is AUSTRIA intended? My answer is anyone who is, or wishes to become, a specialist collector of Austrian material, and anyone who wishes to widen and deepen their knowledge of such material, and the political and cultural conditions within which it was used. They will be assumed (ie long explanations will not be required or provided):

- to have a basic knowledge of philatelic concepts and vocabulary, but not of their specific realisation within Austria.
- to understand British English only, so all other languages will appear only where essential, and will be accompanied by an idiomatic translation.
- to have a basic knowledge of Austrian history (such as might fit on 1 side of A4) and geography.
- to know nothing about literature and catalogues published in foreign languages

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Note that most of the items described are not retained long-term by the Society, although copies may be available for a short period.

Die Briefmarke

9/2033: Multilateral, Tarviso, St. Paul im Lavantal symposium notes; death centenary of Ferdinand Hanusch; philatelic forgeries in the 2nd republic; mixed- and supplementary frankings; new dispenser stamps; Gisela part 2; Hernalis; book reviews; society news; etc

10/2023: the millionth Cryptostamp; 50th anniversary of Ingeborg Bachmann's death; Yehudi Menuhin Trophy (for the most beautiful music stamp of 2022) awarded to Kirsten Lubach for the 'Trombone' stamp; 4th centenary of Salzburg University; the Italian occupation of Innsbruck at the end of WWI; the 1848 revolution in Vienna; new issues; Hernalis; Toscana and Multilateral reports; book reviews; society news; usw usf...

11/2023: The Priority Not-a-stamp; -dates etc of the 1863 issue; thematic: minerals; new commemorative issues (8) and Xmas Markenprodukte (89+); Christkindl's 74th season; society news; etc etc.



12/2023: Crib figures; Konrad Lorenz; inflation in Germany 1922-1923; centenary of the Rentenmark; forgeries of 3. Reich issues; planned issues for 2024; inflation in Hungary 1945-1946; the just-issued “snowflake” stamp with 8 points instead of six; lengthy letters from readers; society news; etc etc.

Germania

Vol 59 nr 4: The use of gold francs by the German parcel service from 1 February 1920 to 30 September 1925, Part 2; The German hyperinflation Part 3; German machine meter marks, Part 4; letters; queries; etc etc.

Vol 60 nr 1: 1924 Deutsche Nothilfe and the 'St Elisabeth's Acts of Mercy' frescos by Moritz von Schwind; German machine meter marks, Part 5; Bertolt Brecht and 'The Life of Galileo'; Use of Weimar stamps in the Third Reich; Phila-Essen 2024 cancelled again (insufficient dealers came forwards) etc etc.

Vindobona Vereins-Nachrichten

3/2023: Society reports; an unusual money-letter carried by Land-post; the pneumatic post offices at Rathaus and Reichsratsgebäude; the 1914 overprinted Bosnia-Herzegowina issues - types and subtypes; post-censoring in the Deutsch-Österreich Republic; 75 years of the 2nd Republic costumes series; late posting; etc. A meaty issue!

ArGe Öst e.V. Rundbrief

133: 2/2023: Again, an enviable standard of presentation, with 152 sides of glossy A4. Varna as transit post office for the Austrian Levant (33 sides!); envelopes preprinted with hotel names; emergency paid-in-cash, 1945-1948 part 3 (9 sides); several 1-side articles from APS members; private printed stationery (iii) 1922-1938 (10 sides); private mail via diplomatic pouch (12 sides); Kinderhilfe in Switzerland during WW2 (23 sides); detailed discussion on postal stationery 1867-1918; AGM reports; etc etc.

ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn Rundbrief

149: 2023/3: New homepage at www.arge-feldpost-oesterreich.at/ Fieldpost in Albania as WWI began; English occupying troops in Imst 1918-19; Dr Hermann-Josef Cammerloher 1885-1940; Know your Enemy: China; Przemysl airmail; packet- and money-cards; all about Fieldpost 1914-1918 (12pp); money letters from Tientsin (22pp); etc etc.

150: 40 years of ArGe Feldpost. The 2023 Festschrift

Introductions etc; Belege aus dem August 1914 (5pp) Briefe erzählen Geschichte (2pp); Der Russisch - Japanische Krieg 1904 - 1905 (50pp); Marinekommandanten der k.(u.)k. Kriegsmarine ab 1851 (16pp); Venerische Spitäler - Wassermannstation (3pp); Die Schweiz im Ersten Weltkrieg (36pp); Heimkehr aus russischer Kriegsgefangenschaft während und nach dem 1. Weltkrieg (135pp)

Stamps of Hungary

Nr 234: September 2023. The Kolozsvár and Nagyvárad Issues of 1919 – A Review of Postal History; Looking at mid-nineteenth century official covers; The humble receipt, part III – Postally independent Hungary; Questions and Answers; etc etc.

Nr. 235 December 2023. Meeting report: A Hungarian Rhapsody; The Transition to Romanian Postal Services in Arad - 1918-22; The Humble Receipt, Part III – Postally Independent Hungary (cont.); The Post Offices of the Hungarian Bolshevik Army, 1919; etc etc.

Czechout

Vol 41/3: The 1943 exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps on London; The Muses of Max Švabinský: Part two; First Republic airmails; Czechoslovak Perfin pattern W19; etc etc

Vol 41/4: Dec 2023: The Muses of Max Švabinský: Part 3; Allegory Stamps in Booklet and Coil Formats; Autopošta – an enduring idea; etc etc.

2023 NEW ISSUES (5th instalment) and 2024 NEW ISSUES (1st instalment)

by Zöld Veltelini, our New Issues Correspondent

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date (dd.mm.yyyy); quantity printed; designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; and details on the design. Many issues are also available in minisheets, blackprints, 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) etc. The language-choice selection on the ÖPost web site is now in the black border at the bottom of each page instead of at the top right corner. Much of the detail is from Diebriefmarke, since the ÖPost web site is in one of its minimalistic-data phases.

Christmas - ceremonial sleigh. 1Eu20; 17.11.2023; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé; Offset; 650,000 stamps on rolls of 50. A nostalgic sleigh adorns this Christmas stamp and makes you want to take a sleigh ride through a snowy winter landscape.



Trips in magnificent, horse-drawn sleighs were a welcome change for the nobility, especially in the Baroque period, but also into the 19th century, where they could show off themselves and their wealth. The imperial court in Vienna also enjoyed sleigh rides, giving the people the opportunity to marvel at the rulers and their magnificent vehicles. The gift-laden sleigh with which Santa Claus is often depicted today is somewhat reminiscent of these magnificent historical sleighs.

Christmas - the Holy Family, Waldhausen parish church in Strudengau. 1Eu20; 17.11.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset, 1,000,000. Light and shadow create an atmospheric contrast in this portrait. The detail from the painting on the Christmas stamp shows Mary and Joseph with the newborn baby Jesus



The baroque oil painting from the 17th century comes from an unknown southern German painter. It is the main image above the Marian altar in the aisle of the Gothic parish church of Waldhausen im Strudengau, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Mary looks tenderly at her son, whom Joseph holds in his arms on a cloth. Jesus carries a white lily, the Christian symbol of purity, and angels hover above the brightly lit little family. The valuable painting was housed in an unnoticed place until 1957. During renovation work, it was restored, given a magnificent baroque frame and placed in its current location above the Madonna statue on the Marian altar. A maximum card is also issued for the special stamp.

Snow crystal. 3Eu85; 17.11.2023; Marion Füllerer; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset; 80,000. Pristine snow-covered landscapes that sparkle in the sunlight - for many people, winter is the most beautiful time of the year.



Actually, snow is just frozen water: at very cold temperatures, water droplets freeze into tiny, delicate ice crystals that combine to form snowflakes and fall to the ground. The resulting blanket of snow is not only beautiful to look at, it also forms an insulating layer for the plants underneath and protects them from frost damage. The first snow of winter delights the children, who look forward to tobogganing and building snowmen. Even if the snow doesn't stay white for long in the city, you shouldn't miss a walk in the snow-covered park or forest.

ÖPost adds: *This special stamp can also be used for a PRIO standard registered letter, partnered with a 1Eu20 stamp for ECO Brief S to EU & Rest of Europe. To do this, however, the shipment must be posted at a special or seasonal post office of the Austrian Post and not at a sub-office. This magical stamp can be purchased at the three philatelic sales points (Steyr, Graz and Vienna) and through the collector service, and of course it is also available as a special stamp subscription. Why 3Eu85? The new foreign registered rate is 3Eu65; the new Anywhere-Europe Priority standard-letter rate is 1Eu40; total 5Eu05. This stamp is 3Eu85; the new Anywhere-Europe not-priority standard-letter rate is 1Eu20 (and there are stamps with that value). 3Eu85 plus 1Eu20 = 5Eu05. Q E D!*

The Editor comments: The designer is evidently an artist, not a physicist! Real snowflakes have SIX arms; it's the octopus that has eight!



120 years of the Wiener Werkstätte and 100th anniversary of Dagobert Peche's death. 2Eu15; 21.11.2023; Theresa Radlingmaier; Cartor Security Printing; Offset; 115,000 blocks of 2. The penetration of all areas of life with art was a maxim of the legendary Wiener Werkstätte, whose members included Dagobert Peche.

Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser and Fritz Wärndorfer founded the Wiener Werkstätte in 1903 as an association of artists who designed and produced jewellery, furniture, textiles, ceramics, glass, graphics and printmaking. Dagobert Peche (1887-1923) was considered an “ornament genius”, he designed jewellery, furniture and fabrics and headed the Zurich branch of the Wiener Werkstätte from 1917 to 1919. In 1921 he also designed postage stamps, which however were not issued. The block of stamps shows a woman's head, a design from the postal archive. On the second stamp you can see a design for the fabric “Geranium” from the MAK, which Felice Rix (1893-1967) created around 1929. She worked for the Wiener Werkstätte from 1914 and primarily created ceramics, wallpapers, textiles and fashion accessories.

Vienna Museum New. 1Eu50; 21.11.2023; David Gruber; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset; 190,000. After extensive renovation and expansion work, the Wien Museum is now opening its doors on the edge of Ressel Park at Karlsplatz.



The Historical Museum of the City of Vienna was built according to plans by the architect Oswald Haerdtl and opened in 1959. A renovation and expansion plan began in 2013, and the Austrian architectural team Certov, Winkler + Ruck won the architectural competition. The historic building has been renovated, a new structure now hovers above it and offers plenty of space on two additional floors. The museum forecourt was also redesigned. Because of its enormous size of

around ten meters, the legendary Praterwal was one of the first objects to be moved into the new museum during construction. It once graced an inn in Vienna's Prater and was donated to the museum in 2016. Now the “whale” has been given the name Poldi and hangs in the hall of the Vienna Museum.

No to violence against women. 3Eu; 25.11.2023; Marion Füllerer; Cartor Security Printing; Offset; 180,000 stamps. This special stamp is intended to send a clear message. Raising awareness and moral courage are of great importance in the fight against violence against the female gender.

Women and girls can be affected by many forms of violence - femicide is just the tip of the iceberg. Around one in three women worldwide is a victim of physical, psychological or sexual violence in the course of their life; most cases take place within the family or in the closest social environment. In Austria there are numerous offers of help for those affected, such as violence protection centres, shelters and women's advice centres as well as special men's advice centres for prevention. Awareness campaigns are intended to increase awareness of the problem and moral courage, because it is crucial not to simply look the other way, but to take joint action against violence against women and girls.



Christmas - Adoration of the Magi, Oppenberg Parish Church. 95c; 1.12.2023; Kirsten Lubach; Cartor Security Printing; Offset, 2,500,000. The carved and framed Epiphany shrine was originally the middle part of a three-part winged altar. An excerpt from it shows the Adoration of the Magi on the Christmas stamp.



Emperor Maximilian I, who is often called the “last knight”, had the small parish church of the Nativity of Mary in Oppenberg in a remote high valley of the Rottenmann Tauern expanded to include a Gothic choir from 1502 onwards. The Munich master builder and sculptor Erasmus Grasser not only took over the construction management, he also created the shrine with the Magi and the Holy Family, which was completed around 1505. The emperor had himself immortalized in the figure of King Melchior “in eternal adoration”, with the imperial crown held above his head. What is remarkable is the movement that is characteristic of Grasser's works of art, such as the “Burgundy step” as a foot position and the wealth of detail in the thirty figures depicted. The Christmas special stamp is also issued as a maximum card.

Christmas - snow globe. 95c; 1.12.2023; Roland Vorlauffer; Enschedé; Offset; 2,000,000 stamps on rolls of 50. Snow globes have a very special magic: if you shake them, it “snows” and white flakes swirl around in them like snow.

When the ball is still again, the flakes cover the scene like a blanket of snow and show an idyllic winter landscape, a snow-covered house, Santa Claus or all sorts of other objects. Snow globes are an Austrian invention: Erwin Perzy, a Viennese inventor and mechanic of surgical instruments, experimented at the end of the 19th century with water-filled spheres that were supposed to amplify light. To do this, he added various particles to the water. An experiment with semolina reminded him of snowfall, so he placed a model of the Mariazell Basilica in a ball filled with water and semolina, creating the first snow globe. The original Viennese snow globe factory is still run by the Perzy family today.



European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. 95c; 20.1.2024; Marion Füllerer; bpost Stamps Printing; offset; 300,000 stamps in sheets of 50. With the Salzkammergut and Bad Ischl as “banner cities,” an inner-Alpine rural region was named cultural capital for the first time. The illustration is the Hallstätter See.



The title of European Capital of Culture has been awarded by the European Union since 1985. More than 60 European cities and regions have received this award so far, including Graz (2003) and Linz (2009). In addition to the Salzkammergut with 23 municipalities (Upper Austrian and Styrian), Tartu in Estonia and Bodo in Norway are involved in the 2024 Capital of Culture region. The Salzkammergut Capital of Culture region has developed four program lines that the program follows: “Power and Tradition”, “Culture in Flow”, “Sharing Salzkammergut - The Art of Travel”

“Globalocal - Building the New”. The region presents itself in numerous projects and shows the diversity of traditional and contemporary art and culture as well as opportunities to actively shape the future.

Anvil - cutlery 2060 in the Austrian Design Series. 3Eu; 24.1.2024; Anita Kern; Enschedé; offset; 200,000 stamps in sheets of 50. The special stamp shows the cutlery ‘2060’ by Carl Auböck, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year.

Carl Auböck (1924-1993) was a Viennese designer and architect as well as a professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, where he led the master class for metal product design. Auböck is considered a representative of an objective, internationally oriented modernity. He designed apartments, residential buildings, business premises and a church; his particular focus was on industrial design for well-known manufacturers. Around 1955, he designed for the Upper Austrian manufacturer Neugeughammer Ambosswerk the ‘2060’ cutlery made of brushed and polished stainless steel, which impresses with its restrained elegance and sculptural design. Founded in the 18th century, the Amboss company existed until the 1990s and was primarily known for high-quality cutlery. The ‘2060’ cutlery was awarded the silver medal at the 11th Triennale in Venice in 1957 and the gold medal at the 1958 World Exhibition in Brussels.



Bassoon, in the series **Austria, Land of music**. 1Eu20; 25.1.2024; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé; offset; 270,000 stamps in sheets of 10. The colour is described as “Offset + Pantone 478C”. The background score is the Suite for bassoon solo, op. 77 (first movement: Pastorale) by the Austrian composer and musicologist Egon Wellesz (born 21 October 1885 in Vienna; died 9 November 1974 in Oxford). He created it in 1957 in exile in England, to which he had escaped in 1938. His 50th death anniversary is this year.



The versatile bassoon is the lowest instrument in the group of woodwind instruments. It is usually made of maple wood in four parts. The double-reed mouthpiece, which the bassoon players usually make themselves, is attached to the metal S-bend. The bassoon has a warm, dark tone and is now primarily used as a bass instrument in chamber and orchestral music. (For even lower notes, the contrabassoon is available.)

Four Seasons. 2Eu50; 14.2.2024; Theresa Radlingmaier; bpost Stamps Printing; Offset; 170,000 stamps in blocks of 10. The ten special stamps with different low denominations can be used as supplementary (make-up) stamps. The OPost web site gives no description or explanation of this stamp! Die Briefmarke comes to the rescue (see



page 1) “Illustrations of plants on this unusual stamp block represent the four seasons that shape the course of a year: the awakening of nature in spring is symbolized with lush flowers, summer with beautiful roses. Different leaves represent harvest time and autumn, and winter shows itself with cones, pine branches and berries. This stamp block fulfils a customer request; it contains two special stamps each with the nominal values 10, 15, 27, 33 and 40 cents, which

can be combined when existing stamps are no longer suitable for current tariffs: you can simply use these special stamps to add the missing value onto the postal item. Of course, supplementary stamps by themselves can be used to frank the mail in an original way.”

Congratulations 2024 & Mourning 2024. Both: 95c; 14.2.2024; Emma Zwettler; Cartor Security Printing; Offset; 350,000 “Congratulations” and 300,000 “Mourning” stamps each in sheets of 50. With these new special stamps, you can frank a letter of congratulations or condolence to suit the occasion. We can read:



Many people love chocolate, and the sweet delicacy is also said to make you happy. However, because of the high fat and sugar content, you should only enjoy them in moderation. Chocolate is a popular gift on many celebratory occasions, and this makes it the "congratulations chocolate" as it can be seen on the stamp. And apparently it is simply irresistible, because there is even a piece of it missing. This cheerful stamp is an original way to frank your birthday wishes or letter of congratulations.

A faded dandelion flower adorns the mourning stamp. Because of its delicate umbrellas, which are so easily blown away by the wind, it is a symbol of letting go and the transitory, but also of new beginnings, because each umbrella carries a seed from which a new plant is created. The motif on the stamp is complemented by the quote “You cannot lose through death what you have deep in your heart” - some consolation for everyone who mourns. This simple mourning stamp in shades of blue and grey will give any letter of sympathy or notice of death a highly personalised feel and set the right tone for the occasion.



Classic stamps of the monarchy 2Eu50 + 95c; 21.2.2024; Anita Kern; Enschedé; Offset; 115,000 stamps in blocks of 2. In addition to the postage stamps of the 1916/18 edition, four larger, large-format coats of arms were issued.



In these postage stamps of 2, 3, 4 and 10 Kronen, the national coat of arms with an attached crown is framed by leaves and tendrils. They were designed by Rudolf Junk, and the engraving is by Ferdinand Schirnböck. There are different versions of these stamps, all of which were valid until October 31, 1920. On September 28, 1916, they were issued in dark colours, and then in lighter colours from July 1917. From the end of 1917 to 1919, as can be seen on the stamp block, printed on fibre paper. In addition, the contraction of the damp paper during printing resulted in stamps in portrait and in wide format, depending on whether the sheet of paper was cut lengthwise or crosswise and inserted into the printing press.

A visit to Ulm

Andy Taylor

A small party of APS members and friends surmounted the adversities of travel (eg German trains not stopping at their stations) to attend the Internationale Briefmarken-Börse at Ulm, Germany, on 26-27 October (we had to miss the 28th for logistical reasons). There were about 80 dealers, a huge stand for Deutsche Post, a discrete corner for Austrian Post, 30 ArGe (societies) stands, and not one but two exhibitions with over 60 entries. The catering service was super-efficient, even producing extra tables from up their sleeve when the existing ones filled up. We had to get taxis to and from our excellent hotel - my map showed a pleasant path through the woods but it turned out to be the Bavaria-BadenWürttemberg frontier! Austria Post had produced a block-of-three special stamps, which I have added to my meagre collection of exhibition souvenirs.



<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONALE BRIEFMARKEN - BÖRSE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>...followed by a simple dessert...</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>I've got a little list...</i></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

The event program was available on line, so I could plan my initial sorties. I discovered the advantage of bringing a picture (shown above) of the specific items on my wants list - not all dealers understand Germlisch with a Scottish accent! The dealer's hall was full of buyers, the exhibit hall fairly empty.

<p style="text-align: center;">A quieter moment at the dealers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tyrolphila</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Exhibits</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

I did better than expected at the dealers; I wanted a very limited range of specific items, expected to find none, and ended up with four! My main aim with the exhibits was to seek ways of arranging an A3 sheet so it doesn't look like two A4s side by side - however nobody had an answer significantly better than those I already have.



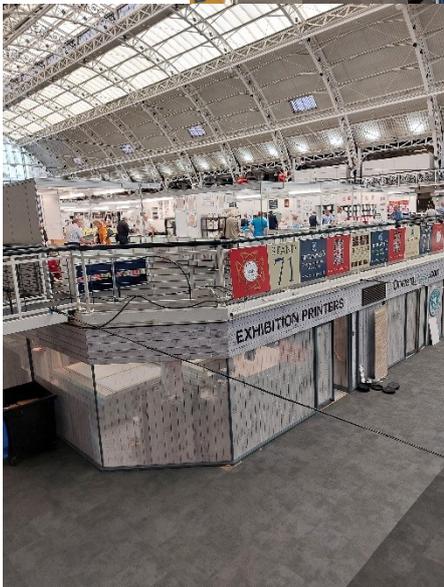
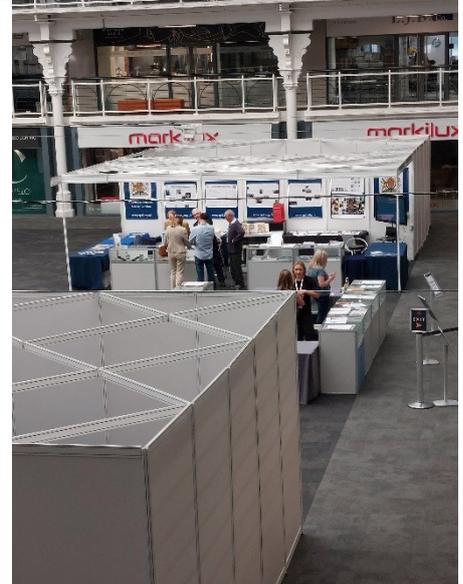
I also attended the AGM of the ArGe Österreich, a society much like ours but for German speakers. (I'm a recent member.) I gave them fraternal greetings from the APS, adding that according to Google Translate, their officers were standing for re-election apart from the Chairman who was running!

The photo shows me with Roman Bukovansky, their chairman, at their Society Table.

We decided on a taxi direct from the hotel to Munich airport for the return journey: much less wearing on the aged. And I discovered something new: the location of Heathrow's Central Bus Station!

Autumn Stampex 2023 - adieu to the main hall

The lack of foreign dealers, and the restrictions on lorries, have banished future Stampexes to a smaller hall ☹️



The Belvedere in stamps and pictures

by Andy Taylor

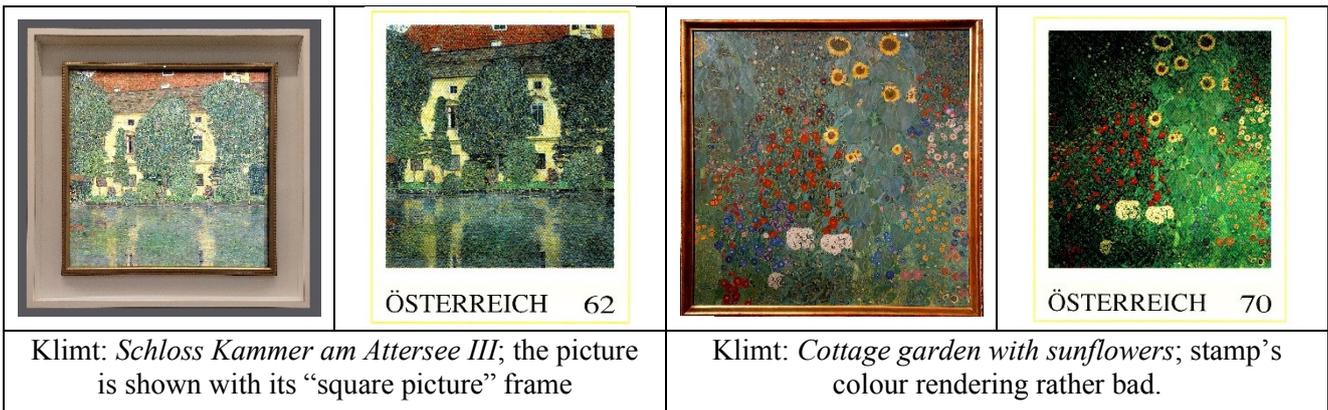
During my Vienna Week last December, I filled a long-standing gap in my cultural knowledge by spending most of a day at the Belvedere Museum - one could spend a week there, but would probably be afflicted by Stendhal syndrome. Pre-planning suggested buying a timed entry ticket on-line, carrying my passport, and looking in particular for paintings used on Austrian stamps. I have distilled the resulting 74 photographs into this feuilleton.

The grand ceremonial staircase of the Upper Belvedere looked daunting; but round a corner on the left is a lift. I entered the principal reception hall, and realised that it was where the Austrian State Treaty was signed in 1955. A glass case contains a copy of the actual treaty “donated by the Russian Embassy”, open at the second page of signatures: John Foster Dulles and Llewellyn E Thompson for the USA, Ant. Pinay and R Lalouette for France; and last Leopold Figl the Foreign Minister and former Chancellor of Austria (in green ink!).

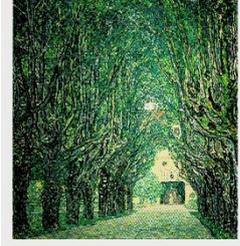


The signed treaty was presented to the assembled populace, crammed into the gardens below. A commemorative stamp was issued. See here <https://www.austrianphilately.com/statetreaty/index.htm> for much more detail.

I knew that Klimt painted many “square paintings”, both of people and landscapes; but I was surprised by how big they were: over a metre wide. Many are reproduced on postage stamps, either in the booklets produced by Austrian Post or on their sheet of 20 Attersee landscapes that Klimt painted during his summer holidays there.



The rooms are arranged in a horse-shoe shape; the more popular paintings are immediately recognisable by the crowds of visitors taking photographs of the paintings, or of themselves in front of them to prove they were there.

			 <p>ÖSTERREICH 55</p>
<p><i>Adele Bloch-Bauer II</i>, paying a visit for some cosmetic work from her new home in California.</p>		<p>Alley of trees at Schloss Kammer. This has appeared on two stamps, with rather different colour rendering!</p>  <p>ÖSTERREICH 62</p>	

		
<p>Klimt's <i>Judith and Holofernes</i>: the original painting and the stamp</p>		 <p>Klimt's <i>Fritza Riedler</i></p>

[See <https://www.austrianphilately.com/klimt/index.htm> or 'Austria' 180 pp 30-35 for further discussions of Klimt!]

		
<p>The Upper Belvedere 'street' frontage, the 2010 stamp showing it; and the 2023 stamp of the garden front.</p>		

And my last page, but definitely not the last in importance, is *The Kiss*. As with the square paintings, this is much bigger than its representations on carrier bags and T-shirts lead you to expect. It lives behind a thick protective screen, and is besieged by selfie-takers, for whom nothing exists until you have photographed it.



And, spiritually refreshed, I ended my visit with coffee n' cake in the café.



Two additions to the "Parliamentary Post Offices" article in AUSTRIA 222

By Michael Fukarek, AIJP.

[See notes on page 20!] When the new parliament building (the Reichsrathsgebäude) on Vienna's Ringstrasse was planned, the architects were of course aware of the existence and possibilities of the pneumatic system opened about 8 years earlier, to which 13 stations had been connected by then. At the same time, the new City Hall, only a few hundred meters away, was also planned and built. Both buildings were of extraordinary importance and so a pneumatic station was provided in both from the very beginning. The station in the town hall was integrated into the first ring line between Mariatreugasse and Telegraphen centrale. The Reichsrath building was served by a radial line starting from the town hall. In the Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt No.5 1884 of 1.2.1884 (see last page), the opening of the two stations was announced for 25.11.1883 (retrospectively). The earliest postmark "WIEN RATHHAUS" I have seen so far is dated 30.11.1883, only 5 days later (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 RP 8, Dispatch in WIEN RATHHAUS on 30.11.1883 9-10V, pneumatic to station 2 in 1., Fleischmarkt (arrival there 10-11V), transfer to normal post (postmark "WIEN ST.P.") at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and on to Währing, delivery there at 5-6 N(achmittags).

And in the following years, the postmark is, if not necessarily frequent, not extremely rare either. And what about the postmark "WIEN REICHSRATHSGEBÄUDE"? I found the first one so far dated 07.03.1884, i.e. 3½ months after the station was put into operation (Fig. 2). There is a second one on an envelope dated 19.05.1886 (from the collection of Colin Tobitt, fig. 3), another one on a correspondence card dated 06.06.1887 (fig. 4). And only recently a fourth was found on an envelope dated 27.10.1891 (Fig. 5) that's all.



Fig. 2 RP 8, 07.03.1884



Fig. 3 RU 6, 19.05.1886



Fig. 4 RP 9b II, 06.06.1887

Fig. 5 RU 9, 27.10.1891

In a period of use of eight years, only four postmark impressions! This postmark - used in pneumatic tube mail - is really a great rarity! And even on the occasions when I looked at other well-developed pneumatic tube mail collections, I have not found another specimen so far.

It is remarkable that the postmark was used as a dispatch postmark on all four examples, the items were posted in the Reichsrath building.

What about correspondences to the Reichsrathsgebäude? Possibly most died a lonely death in the files of the bureaucracy. But I did find one document: It is an envelope dated 15.02.1889 (Fig. 6) The addressee is Mr. Josef Minister - the inspector of the Reichsrathsgebäude. The address: "I Franzensring Reichsrathsgebäude". The letter is instraded in blue pencil in the upper left corner with "15", the instrading cipher for the station in the Reichsrathsgebäude, which was valid until June 1892. But - the letter's journey through the pneumatic system ended at the "RATHHAUS" station. There, the corresponding arrival postmark was struck and a messenger took the letter to the Reichsrathsgebäude, 480m away. The letter would have had to wait 15 minutes for the next pneumatic train - the messenger was faster.



Fig. 6 RU 8, 15.02.1889

At the end of 1891 and in the first half of 1892, the postmarks in the pneumatic tube stations were exchanged because of the renumbering of the post offices after the municipal area reform announced on 18.12.1890. In the newsletter of Arge Österreich 4/2013 issue 104 on p.25 Prof. Dr. R. Krüger showed a pneumatic envelope RU10 to Graz via the Südbahn with a new postmark "WIEN / R r" dated 10.06.1892 (Fig. 7). I have this new postmark "WIEN / R r" with earliest use dated 03.12.1892. So there is only a gap from 28.10.1891 to 09.06.1892 - a little more than seven months in which the postmark must have been exchanged. It is not possible to be more precise at the moment.

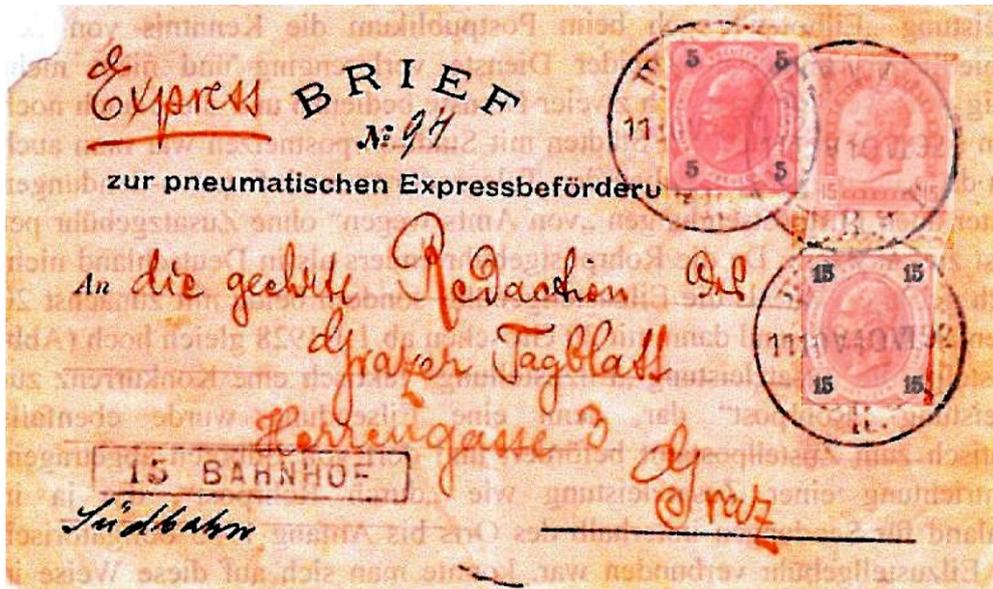


Fig. 7 RU 9, 10.06.1892

On the basis of the letter of 10.06.1892 (Fig. 7) I would like to point out another aspect: The boxed postmark "15 BAHNHOF" can be clearly seen at the bottom left. The pneumatic post office in the Reichsrathsgebäude was thus equipped with a station postmark (probably right at the time of its opening) in order to be able to mark items leaving the Vienna pneumatic system by railway accordingly.

But now to another and more pleasing aspect: the telephone! Does anyone know when a telephone first rang in the Reichsrath building? I don't. But Keith shows one of those neat little telephone calling cards on his page 16. I have now registered 70 of these calling cards with the "WIEN REICHSRATHSGEBÄUDE" postmark shown, for the period from November 1888 to May 1890, so the postmark is really not rare on telephone calling cards during this period (and it should or could also appear on pneumatic tube mail covers or cards!). The normal or typical use was for 1fl cards for 5-minute calls on the Vienna-Brno line. But it looks like sometimes the 1fl cards ran out and then? Not calling was not an option then either! So the telephone official took 5 cards for local traffic at 20kr. each, as happened on 09.03.1889, on 13.03.1889 at 1:40, 2:20 (Fig. 8) and 2:55 in the afternoon, further on 16.03.1889 and 21.03.1889 (Fig. 9). But the other option, 2 cards at 50kr each, was also available and was used in case of shortages, e.g. on 1, 6 and 14.12.1888 (Fig. 10). The habitus of the cards is always very similar: the word "Local" was crossed out in handwriting and used as the Vienna-Brno line „Wien-Brünn“. The use of several calling cards for the payment of charges for a single call has so far only become known to me from the Sprechstelle in the Reichsrathsgebäude.

The volume of calls at the call center in the Reichsrathsgebäude was initially quite manageable (in March 1889, there were probably not much more than 140 calls), but increased rapidly (in April 1890, almost 500 calls).



Fig. 8 TK 4 Two cards from the same day (13.03.1889) and at the same time (2:20 p.m.) with the same capture number (42) - they are two parts of five which add up to 1fl.

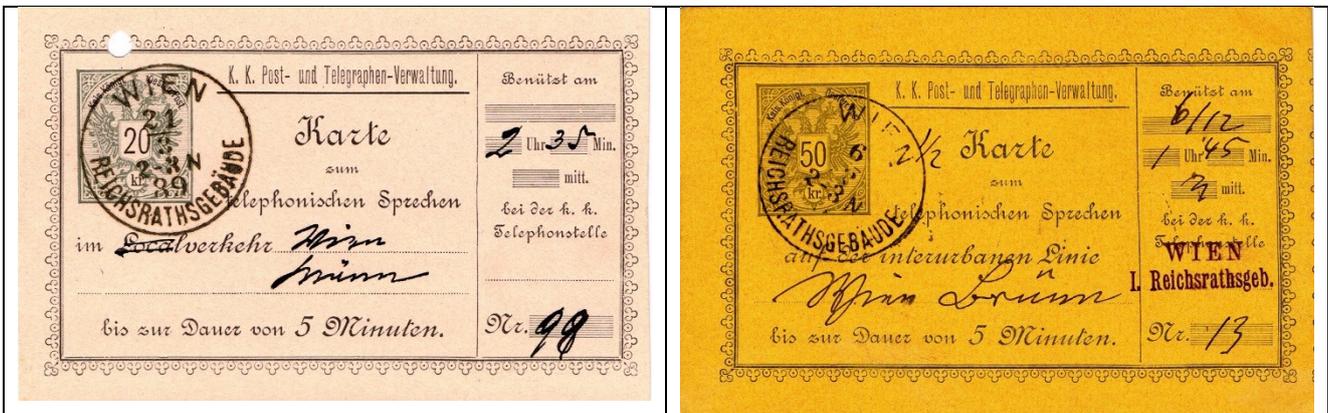


Fig. 9 TK 4 "Local" is also deleted here. Writing the correct capture number was probably not easy sometimes, especially when several cards received the same number.

Fig. 10 TK 7 On the right side of the card is a two-line postmark in purple "WIEN I. Reichsrathsgeb.", as was common for most telephone intercoms at the time. It was used rather rarely in the Reichsrathsgebäude

intercom. Note the handwritten "1/2" before the word "Karte" - and the addition is quite correct: 50kr covered only half the charge for a call on the Vienna-Brno line.

This is what happened until the renumbering of the offices in the first half of 1892. But what happened next? The (pneumatic) Post Office in the Reichsrathsgebäude was not assigned a number, but the letter R¹. The first new postmark is known to me, as mentioned above, dated 03.12.1892 (Fig. 11). The middle line, as on all other postmarks of this new type, is designed as follows:

Hour 10-minute interval V/N Day Month Year. [V = vormittags, a.m. ; N = nachmittags, p.m]



Fig. 11 RP 14, from -3 XII 92. The card was forwarded to Kaltern in South Tyrol without any additional charge.

¹ The pneumatic tube stations in the Effectenbörse and in the Productenbörse received the instradiation ciphers E and P, but at the same time had the post office numbers 7 and 36. The central telegraph station was instradiated as of July 1, 1892 with W (= Wien??); bore the letters C.R. (= Centrale Rohrpost) in the postmark; and had the post office number 6. No other letters were used in the pneumatic system. The post office in the Reichsrath was therefore the only one to which only one letter and no number was assigned.

However, 3 years after the first use of this new postmark, another one appears in which the middle line arranged in a side-rotated manner: Day Month Year Hour 10-minute interval V/N. This postmark exists in blue (12.06.1895; fig. 12) ...

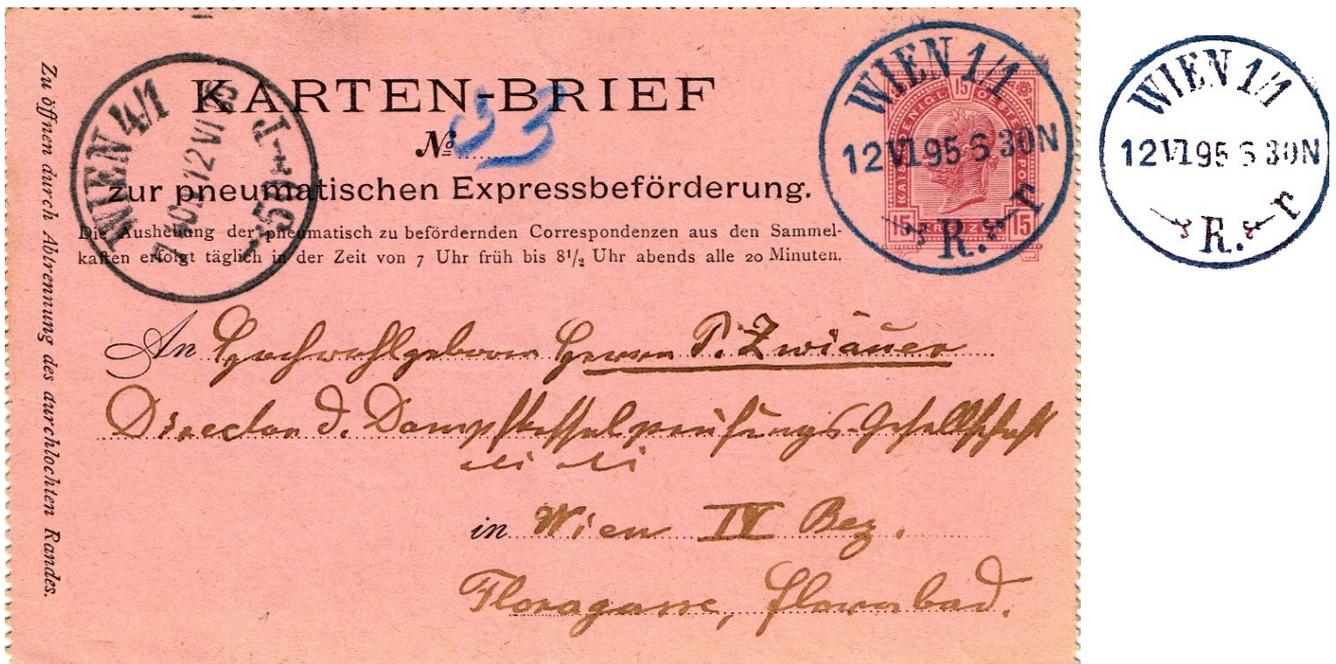


Fig. 12 RK 4, 12.06.1895

... or later also in black (24.04.1896; Fig. 13), whereby the time and the marking for a.m. or p.m. (V/N) were again interchanged on this one: [Day Month Year V/N Hour 10-minute interval]



Fig. 13 on pneumatic post card 10kr., 24.04.1896

The earliest known uses are shown. Why the new postmark was introduced in 1895 is not clear to me. Excessive wear of the previous postmark can hardly have been the reason. Or was it? Or is it not a new postmark at all, because the individual segments of the date-time line could be interchanged?

And finally, one last thought: The city date stamp "WIEN 1/1 / REICHSRATH / c / ..." shown by Keith on page 16 below was also (occasionally?) used in pneumatics. I show a cover dated 05.11.1894 (Fig. 14). It's the only cancellation of this postmark on a pneumatic tube mail item known to me so far.



Fig. 14 Envelope dated 05.11.1894 2-3 p.m. to Mr. Friedrich von Kleist, Gutsbesitzer, Reichsrathsabgeordneter, Hotel Metropole, I Vienna; intraded "W" and delivered by the telegraph central station at 2.30 in the afternoon. The journal number "40" means that it was the 40th pneumatic transmission dispatched that day. With a service start at 8:00 a.m., this equates to an average of 6 shipments per hour.

In terms of time, therefore, this postmark lies between the postmarks with the reversed datelines, but does that have to mean anything? These are again some of the many mysteries of Vienna's pneumatic post.

And the "Rathhaus"? Well, the beginning has already been told and the rest of the story is far less spectacular than that of the Reichsrath. The first postmark (cf. Fig. 1) can be traced back to 28.11.1891. It was also used in the telegraph station (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15 TA 17, 22.02.1888

Since 15.12.1891 at the latest, a town-day stamp was used on an interim basis, which already contained the new office number "10". The time span hidden from the author so far is therefore only 16 days! (Fig.16)



Fig. 16 RU 9, 15.12.1891

This postmark was in use at least until 18.05.1892 (Fig.17).



Fig. 17 P74, 52 and 53 added, 18.05.1892

The new pneumatic postmark with the office number "10" was used from 19.07.1892 at the latest (Fig. 18). The unclear time span of the exchange of the postmarks is thus only 2 months.



Fig. 18 RP 11, 19.07.1892

And last but not least: There is no evidence of a telephone exchange in the town hall on the postal stationery telephone cards so far.

Michael Fukarek, AIJP

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

Editor's Notes

1. The pictures have been adjusted so that their essential features are as clear as possible.
2. For some of the cancellations, a false-colour image has been added, also for clarity.
3. "Instradierung" is the process whereby a suitable delivery office is identified and its number written at the top left corner of the item to be pneumatically transmitted; normally in blue crayon but rarely red, black etc. There exist street directories in which the clerks could look up any street in Vienna and see which pneumatic office handled the mail - not necessarily the same office as dealt with non-pneumatic mail.
4. Each figure has a caption such as **Fig. 7 RU 9, 10.06.1892**. The letters are those used in the Michel catalogue, and stand for: RP = Rohrpost-Postkarte; RU = Rohrpost-Umschlag [*envelope*]; RK = Rohrpost-Kartenbrief [*letter-card*]; TK = Telefonsprechkarte [time slot on the inter-city phone line]; TA = Telegrammaufgabeschein [certificate of posting for a telegramme]; and P = Postkarte.

№ 5.



1884.

Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt

für das

Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums.

Redigirt im k. k. Handelsministerium.

Wien, den 1. Februar 1884.

Errichtung von Aerarial-Postämtern im neuen Reichsrathsgebäude und im neuen Rathhause in Wien.

S. Minist. B. 42446 ex 1883.

Am 25. November 1883 sind in Wien, I. Bezirk, zwei Aerarial-Postämter unter der Bezeichnung: „K. k. Postamt Wien, Reichsrathsgebäude“ und: „K. k. Postamt Wien, Rathhaus“ in Wirksamkeit getreten.

Dieselben befassen sich:

- a) mit dem Verschleiß aller inländischen Postwerthzeichen;
- b) mit der Annahme aller Gattungen von Briefpostsendungen, Geld- und Werthbriefen, dann von Frachtsendungen kleineren Umfanges und Gewichtes, von Nachnahmesendungen bis 500 fl., von gewöhnlichen Postanweisungen bis 200 fl., dann bis 1.000 fl. nach den zur Auszahlung derselben ermächtigten Postämtern und bis 5.000 fl. nach Budapest, sowie von telegraphischen Postanweisungen bis 500 fl., ferner mit Einlagen und Rückzahlungen für das k. k. Postsparcassen-Amt, mit der Annahme von Abonnements auf die außerhalb Oesterreich-Ungarns erscheinenden Zeitungen;
- c) mit der Auszahlung von Nachnahmeanweisungen für die bei den genannten zwei Postämtern aufgegebenen Nachnahmesendungen bis 200 fl., der Ausfertigung von Nachfrageschreiben und Ausfolgung der Rückscheine von bei denselben zur Aufgabe gelangten Brief- und Fahrpostsendungen und
- d) mit der Annahme von Telegrammen nach dem In- und Auslande, von pneumatischen Briefen und Correspondenzkarten.

Das k. k. Postamt Wien, Reichsrathsgebäude, ist während der Dauer der Session des hohen Reichsrathes auch mit dem Bestellungs-, beziehungsweise Abgabedienste betraut.

Die k. k. Postämter haben die Namen der vorgenannten zwei Postämter im Postämter-Verzeichnisse und in den im Post-Verordnungsblatte Nr. 69 ex 1882 und im Post-u. Tel. B. Bl. Nr. 28 ex 1883 kundgemachten Verzeichnissen an entsprechender Stelle nachzutragen.

Wien, den 19. Jänner 1884.

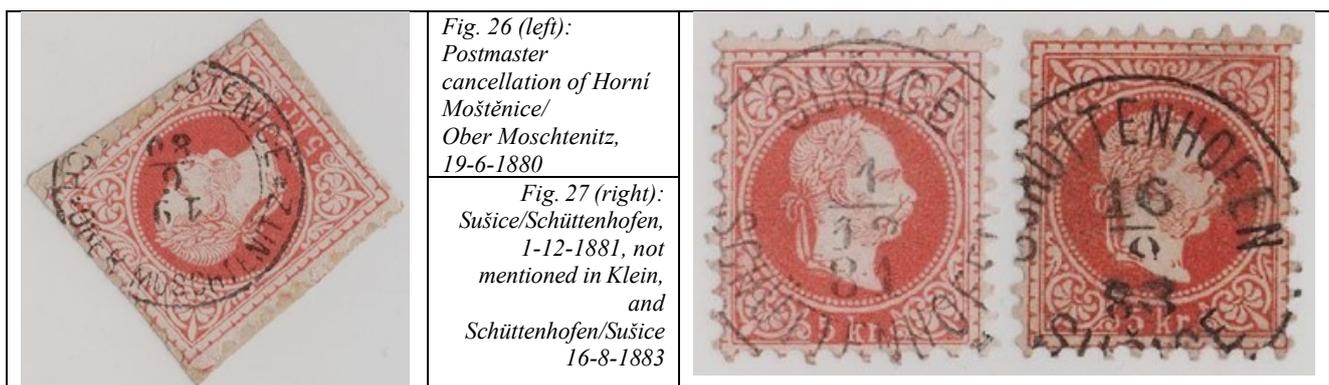
An analysis of the bilingual postal cancellations in the German-Czech provinces of Austria-Hungary during the period 1867–1919 – Part two

By Frans van Loo

Part one of this article appeared in the March 2023 edition of Czechout. The full article previously appeared in Pošta Česko-Slovenská, the journal of Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-filatellie, in the Netherlands. The English translation is reproduced here by kind permission of the author.

Why did some places use Czech/German cancellers?

Now we will look at why, in some cancellations, the German name is not on top, thus violating the ‘Müller rules’. The fact that the Czech name was quite often on top gave Müller the idea that this was possibly due to nationalistic actions of the postmasters, although he does acknowledge that some officially delivered cancellers also violated the ‘Müller rules’, as shown in Figs. 12 and 25. In the third section of Table 3 you can see the number of ‘top/bottom’ Czech/German cancellations. Bohemia had sixty-three, Moravia had four, and Silesia did not have any at all.



In Bohemia, the sixty-three places with Czech/German cancellations are all dispersed in the central part of Bohemia, but especially along the border with the Sudetenland. It is certainly feasible that political/ nationalistic intentions play a role, especially since thirty-two of them have postmaster (PM) cancellers, compared with only eight postmaster cancellers out of the 734 offices with German/Czech cancellation. Until 1882, these postmasters had a large degree of freedom in designing their cancellers. All postmaster Czech/German cancellers were later replaced by the official single-circle German/Czech cancellers, except for the two villages Načeradec and Rožďalovice, which replaced their postmaster Czech/German canceller with a monolingual Czech one in about 1884. Načeradec never used another one during the period covered by this article (see Fig. 19); Rožďalovice used the official German/Czech cancellation after 1890.

In Moravia only four offices used a Czech/German cancellation and three of these had a postmaster canceller:

1. Napajedla (Czech) / Napagedl (German) – 3,769 inhabitants, 98% Czech. It was used simultaneously with the German/Czech variant until around 1890.
2. Horní Moštěnice / Ober Moschtenitz – 1,415 inhabitants, 99% Czech. Used this cancellation until around 1884, when it was replaced by the German/Czech variant. Note that in my copy the date is upside down (Fig. 24).
3. Město Přerov / Stadt Prerau – 16,727 inhabitants, 96% Czech. Used the Czech/German cancellation for only a short time – it was replaced around 1880 by the German/Czech cancellation.
4. Vracov / Wratzow – 3,594 inhabitants, 100% Czech. Did not use a postmaster canceller but an official Czech/German canceller. It was used until about 1895 and then replaced by the German/Czech variant (See Table 6 and its explanation).

For the official cancellers with the Czech name on top it is difficult to understand how they managed to break the official rule that the German language has to be on top. Often the German/Czech and the Czech/German cancellations were used in the same period, as shown by the next example.

In my collection there is a beautiful Czech/German cancellation, Sušice/Schüttenhofen, dated 1-12-1881, not mentioned by Klein [4] or Votoček [6]. Next to this is the official German/Czech cancellation (see Fig. 25). This is an important District Capital in the South of Bohemia, close to the Sudeten border, and is 98% Czech.

To get more insight in the top/bottom discussion, I divided the places with Czech/German cancellers into two groups: one that already had post offices before 1867, and another that opened an office in the years between 1 July 1867 and 1 January 1874. Analysis of Klein's data [4] shows that offices that opened after 1874 never used a Czech/German canceller. The surprising difference between these two periods is shown in Table 6.

During this period three types of postage stamps were issued: the emperor's head (as in Figs. 25 and 26a) between 1 June 1867 and 31 October 1884; the double-eagle type (as in Fig. 26b) between 15 August 1883 and 30 June 1891; and another emperor's head design (as in Fig. 23 – *see part one*) between 1 September 1890 and 30 September 1900. The value was in Kreuzer – after 1900 other issues had their value in Kronen.

	Place name	Inhabitants	1867–1884 issue (emperor's head I)		1884–1890 issue (double eagle)		1890–1900 issue (emperor's head II)	
			Czech/German	S or D	Czech/German	S or D	Czech/German	S or D
Bohemia Post office opened before 1 June 1867	Beneschau	6,800	X		X	S		
	Chlumetz	3,700	X	S				
	Königgrätz	9,800	X	S				
	Leitomischl	8,100	X		X	S		
	Lissa	4,000	X		X		X	S
	Prag	202,000	X	S				
	Rakonitz	6,600	X	S				
	Schüttenhofen	6,700	X	S				
	Selčan	2,700	X		X		X	S
	Starkenbach	2,600	X		X	S		
	Tinischt	2,100	X			S		
	Wottitz (1)	2,100	X	S	X	S	X	S
	Bohemia Post office opened between 6 July 1867 and 11 December 1873	Čestice	531	X		X		X
Čischkau		482	X		X		X	S
Holoubkau		889			X		X	S
Hrochowteinitz		1,274	X		X		X	S
Hostiwitz		1,356	X		X		X	D
Jinetz (2)		1,338	X		X		X	L/R
Kratenau		867	X		X		X	D
Mieschitz		886	X		X		X	D
Miröschau (3)		1,957	Mono, X		Mono		Mono	S
Nemčitz		298	X		X			D
Neuschloss		727	X		X		X	D
Okroulitz		312	X		X		X	D
Raubowitz		1,851	X		X		X	D
Sazau		1,789	X		X		X	S
Swojschitz		892	X		X		X	D
Windig Jenikau		981	X		X		X	D
Wollenitz		620	X		X		X	D
Wrbno	474	X		X		X	S	
Ždirez	710	X		X			S	
Zetoraz	689	X		X		X	D	
Žižkov (4)	59,300	X	S					
Moravia	Vracov	3,594	X		X		X	D

Notes:

1. Wottitz used the Czech/German and the single-circle German/Czech simultaneously through the whole period.
2. Jinetz replaced the Czech/German canceller with a left/right (L/R) canceller in around 1895.
3. Miröschau – see text below.
4. Žižkov opened its new post office because of a reclassification and has thus the same characteristics as the group that opened offices before 1867.

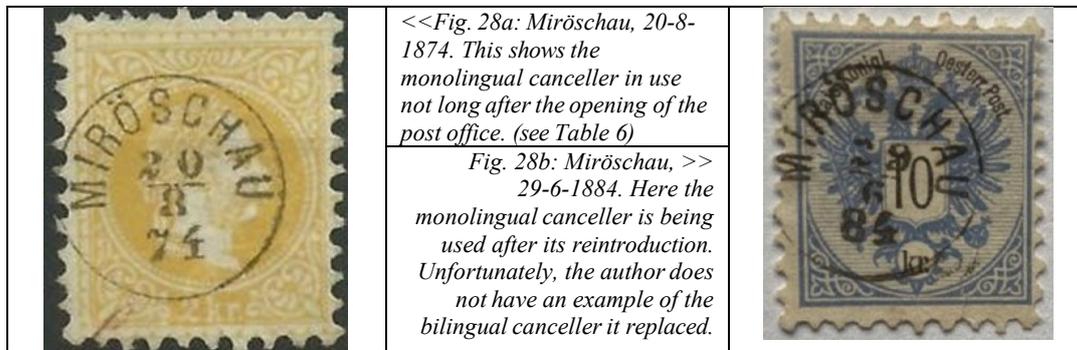


Table 6 shows the places which used a Czech/German canceller; in the upper half are the places which had a post office before 1 June 1867 and in the lower part those places with offices which opened after that, including the Moravian village of Vracov. The X symbol shows the period in which the Czech/German canceller was used, according to Klein. The canceller which took over after the withdrawal of the Czech/German canceller is also shown. Most often that was the official German/Czech canceller of the single-circle type (S) or the double-circle type (D) (as in Fig. 23).

In the case of Miröschau the monolingual thimble canceller was, according to Votoček [6], introduced at the opening of the post office and was used on all three issues until 6 November 1893, when it was replaced by the single-circle German/Czech canceller; the Czech/German canceller had been used for a short period during the first issue.

Surprisingly, the characteristics of the upper and lower halves of Table 6 differ a great deal. In the lower half (which shows data for post offices which opened after 1867) in most cases the non-official Czech/German canceller was used during the whole period until it was replaced by the official double-circle German/Czech canceller (D). In the upper half of the table, in most places the Czech/German canceller was withdrawn during the first or second period and always replaced by the regular single-circle canceller.

Initially, influenced by Müller's ideas, I thought that during these politically troubled times young, enthusiastic postmasters in new post offices would massively support the Czech case but that is not correct. Out of the 229 post offices that opened after 1867 in the Czech-speaking areas in Bohemia, only twenty-one (9%) used a Czech/German canceller (see Table 6). Of the 151 places that already had a post office before 1867, twelve (8%) used a Czech/German canceller. It seems that the new postmasters were politically no more active than those already in post.

The question remains: what has the date of the opening of a post office to do with the large differences between both groups in Table 6? I think that the answer is not explicitly found in the date of opening but implicitly in the number of inhabitants. In the upper half are places with a large population, in any case more than 2,000 inhabitants, whereas in the lower half all but one have a very low number of inhabitants, less than 2,000. The only exception is Žižkov, a place that is now situated in the cadastral district of Prague and had at that time 59,300 inhabitants. The point here is that Žižkov got its own post office because of a formal reclassification and has, therefore, the same characteristics as the places in the upper half. All other places in the lower group were simply not important enough before 1867 to get a post office. I can only see one explanation: the low population would not have written many letters and the canceller would not have been used very often. It would take years for the canceller to wear out – as Müller says in his article: 'It was permitted to use the cancellers until they were worn out but they had to obey the rules'; and then in brackets, 'That means that the German name has to be on top'. I think that this latter assumption is not correct. It would have been impossible for twenty places to use a canceller that is not officially allowed for twenty years. There will originally have been a rule that the German name had to be on top, and most probably a number of places (around 8%) would initially have purchased a canceller with the Czech name on top for political reasons. An official body will then have asked them to withdraw this illegal canceller and replace it with the official German/Czech one. The larger cities did indeed do this but the small ones waited for their canceller to wear out and that simply didn't happen. Vienna didn't care, turning a blind eye.

Analysis of the bilingual left/right cancellations during the period 1897–1919

According to Müller, the introduction of this cancellation should have been the solution for the language struggle in postal cancellations until it became clear that this canceller was susceptible to fraud or error by the postmaster. Apart from the equal rights issue there was the advantage that according to Müller you could see what the dominant language was in the places concerned. The name used by the majority had to appear on the left-hand side of the cancellation (although I will challenge this assumption in this section).

Since the introduction of the double-circle left/right cancellers started in 1897, and for many places took place between 1900 and 1910, it is important to find data on the cancellations during this whole period, and Klein’s data only goes up to 1900. Late in this investigation I learned about the existence of a series of catalogues in the Czech language (but luckily with a German or English summary) on cancellations in current Czechia from 1850 till 1919, entitled: *Monografie československých známek* by Emil Votoček [6]. Volumes 13, 14 and 16 contain the data I needed: Volumes 13 and 14 deal with the data up to 1918, whereas the two parts of Volume 16 cover the years 1918 to 1920. This enabled me to investigate the history of all bilingual left/right cancellations, double-circle as well as *Ringsteg*.

I will focus first on the double-circle bilingual left/right cancellations (see Figs. 14 and 15) in the period 1897–1919. Table 7 shows the number of places (with a post office in 1900) where they were used in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

Table 7: Number of places using double-circle left/right cancellations				
Bohemia, 685 places	German left, 25 places		German majority, 22 places	
			Czech majority, 3 places	
	Czech left, 660 places		German majority, 0 places	
			Czech majority, 660 places	
Moravia, 129 places	German left, 115 places		German majority, 22 places	
			Czech majority, 93 places	
	Czech left, 14 places		German majority, 1 place	
			Czech majority, 13 places	
Silesia, 12 places	German left, 12 places	Czech right, 4 places	German majority, 0 places	
		Polish right, 8 places	Czech majority, 4 places	
				German majority, 1 place
				Polish majority, 7 places

In twenty Czech-speaking places in Bohemia and three in Moravia the initial German-left cancellers were soon replaced by Czech-left ones and are treated as such in Table 7. Our main question is: does the majority- language in a place appear at the left-hand side of the cancellation as the Müller rule claims? If we look at Bohemia, we see that of the 684 places only three places deviate from this rule (indicated in red in Table 7). Kameniček (883 inhabitants, 100% Czech), Nürschau (5,602 inhabitants, 62% Czech) and Trebnitz (1,722 inhabitants, 67% Czech) have the German name on the left-hand side.

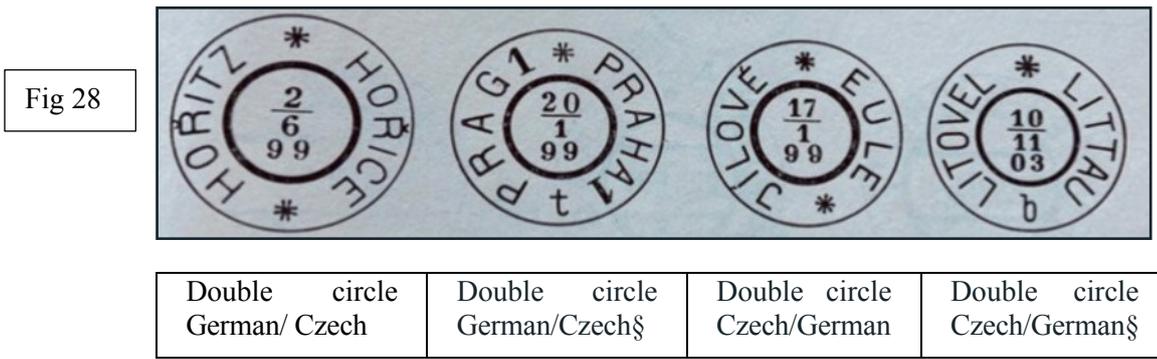
When we look at Moravia, however, we see a completely different picture. Of the 129 places, 94 are in conflict with Müller’s rule, of which 93 have a Czech majority, and yet the German name is on the left. Marienthal bei Olmütz is the only place with a German majority and the Czech name on the left. In Silesia only twelve places used this type of canceller. They all have the German name on the left-hand side, whereas only Bistrai (587 inhabitants, 54% German, 0% Czech, 46% Polish) has a narrow German majority.

In conclusion, in each of the three provinces the policy on this canceller was completely different. In Bohemia Müller’s rule is obeyed with a few exceptions; in Moravia a strong tendency for the German name on the left is apparent; and in Silesia only the German name appears on the left. So it was neither Vienna nor the local postmasters that made the rules but most probably the postal officials of the individual provinces.

	<p><i>Fig. 27: Double-circle left/right cancellation with serial letter c. Prague 25-1-1893 (not mentioned in Klein but mentioned in Votoček). Prague was 90% Czech-speaking.</i></p> <p>The second question arises from Müller’s statement that it was impossible to prevent cheating by rotating the date plug in double-circle left/right cancellers. According to him only the introduction of the <i>Ringsteg</i> canceller did stop this misuse since with that type cheating was impossible. Apart from a horizontal date, the <i>Ringsteg</i> canceller had one star on the top and a serial number or letter at the bottom of the ring for certain technical postal reasons (see Figs. 16 and 17). If the date plug was rotated and you wanted to read the date then the serial</p>
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number is found on top but upside-down and this makes undetected cheating impossible (see Fig. 32). But Müller didn’t mention that this serial number was also used in double-circle left/right cancellers! In Fig. 27 an example

is shown, where no cheating is possible and where the Müller rule is not obeyed. In Table 7 all double-circle cancellers with and without serial numbers are mentioned.



In fact, there are four main types of these cancellers, apart from (for our purpose) non-relevant varieties like the posting time as the big number ‘2’ appearing in Fig. 27. They are shown in Fig. 28, taken from Votoček, where the sign § stands for the serial letter t and b, respectively. The first two have the German name on the left-hand side, the last two the Czech name. These cancellers were used between 1898 and 1919.

Table 8	Bohemia		Moravia	
	German majority	Czech majority	German majority	Czech majority
Double-circle German/Czech	12 places	2 places	16 places	89 places
Double-circle Czech/German	0 places	550 places	1 place	10 places
Double-circle German/Czech§	10 places	2 places	6 places	4 places
Double-circle Czech/German§	0 places	110 places	0 places	3 places
Ringsteg German/Czech§	17 places	0 places	16 places	7 places
Ringsteg Czech/German §	1 place	13 places	0 places	51 places

The point is this: if it had been important to the authorities to prevent cheating, they only had to replace one star by an asymmetrical sign, like a number, letter or something similar. Therefore, it is interesting to see whether the left/right positions in the double-circle types with serial letter and in the two *Ringsteg* types (German/Czech§ and Czech/German§) will follow Müller’s rule. From Table 8 it can be seen that this is generally true for the double-circle type but with six exceptions in the double-circle German/Czech§ cancellations out of 22 (deviations from Müller’s rule are indicated in red).

In Bohemia these exceptions are Trebnitz (1,722 inhabitants, 67% Czech) and one cancellation from Prague as already shown in Fig. 27, which is not mentioned in Table 6 since all other cancellations from this big city have the Czech name at the left-hand side. In Moravia four Czech places have the German name at the left-hand side: Píerau (17,000 inhabitants, 96% Czech), Třebitsch (11,000 inhabitants, 93% Czech), Ung. Hradisch (5,000 inhabitants, 82% Czech) and Mähr. Ostrau (30,000 inhabitants, 56% Czech). This is characteristic for Moravia: these are the largest cities with a Czech-speaking majority and they show a preference for the German name on the left-hand side, as shown in Tables 7 and 8. That is also the case in the *Ringsteg* cancellations. In Moravia seven Czech-speaking places are found with German on the left-hand side. The one German-speaking Bohemian town with the Czech name on the left-hand side, Prachatitz, will be discussed after Table 9.

Table 9 - Presence of Double Circle (DC) left/right canceller, 1900–1919	DC left/right together with <i>Ringsteg</i> left/right	DC left/right without <i>Ringsteg</i> left/right	DC-left/right stopped, 1900–1919
Bohemia	208	326	135
Moravia	25	57	54
Silesia	3	5	1

When reading Müller’s article, one gets the impression that the *Ringsteg* canceller was substituted for the double-circle canceller because of its ability to prevent cheating. However, it turns out that actually a large majority of double-circle cancellers were used until 1919 as shown in Table 9. That could be done simultaneously with a *Ringsteg* canceller or not.

In one case the left/right situation is different between the double-circle and *Ringsteg* cancellers, while being used simultaneously: Prachatitz in Bohemian Sudetenland (4,300 inhabitants, 22% Czech) appears as Prachatitz/Prachatice (double-circle) and as Prachatice/Prachatitz (*Ringsteg*) – see also Table 8.

To close this section, we will now concentrate on an issue that seemingly has nothing to do with the Austro-Hungarian cancellations. We will have a look into the two parts of Volume 16 of Votoček [6] which treat the period between 1918 and 1920, the time in which Czechoslovakia became an independent state. The new country issued her first postage stamps in December 1918 but had to design her own cancellers. That took time, so meanwhile they used a procedure called ‘Nationalization of Cancellations of Austrian Origin’. That meant that all German names and words had to disappear from the canceller used until then in one way or the other.



<p>Fig. 29a: Double-circle Welehrad / Velehrad, 13-4-1920. The ‘W’ has been transformed into ‘V’.</p>	<p>Fig. 29b: Ringsteg Včelákov / Wčelakow, 19-3-1919. Two letters ‘W’ transformed into the letter ‘V’.</p>	<p>Fig.30a Double-circle Manětín / Manetin, 27-1-1920. The e and i were transformed at the right-hand side into ě and í.</p>	<p>Fig.30b The German name has been removed.</p>
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An easy way to do this was to change the German name into a Czech name with a small correction. In that way two ‘identical’ names appeared on the cancellation. An example was changing the German letter ‘W’ to the Czech equivalent ‘V’ as shown in Fig. 29. (This and some of the other illustrations are taken from Jacques Hermann’s *Czech Cancellations* [7], a very nice website with a lot of information about cancellations between 1918 and 1939.) It is clear that half of the letter ‘W’ has been removed, leaving a narrow letter ‘V’. In Fig. 29a there is a remnant of the ‘W’ (indicated by a thin arrow). In Fig. 29b, in spite of changing a ‘W’ to a ‘V’ twice, the names are still not identical because the Czech accent on the letter Á has been overlooked on the right-hand side! In Manětín, Fig. 30, they first tried to make the names identical by putting an accent on the í in the German name on the right-hand side, but then they also had to change the German e into the Czech ě, which was not very successful. Maybe that was why they removed the German name completely two months later. That became the most popular way to solve the problem.

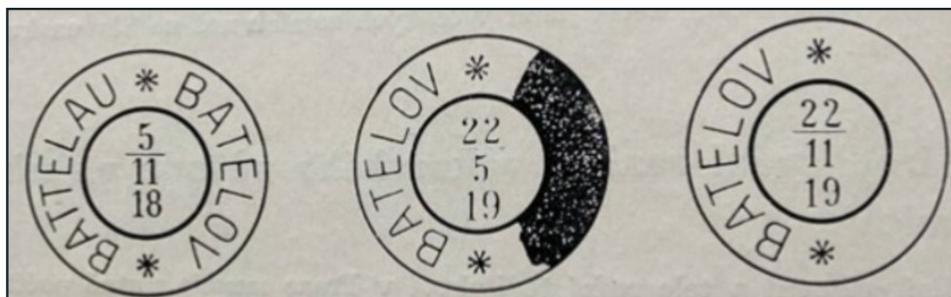


Fig. 31: a year in the life of the Batelov cancel!

For us the most relevant changes can be seen in Fig. 31. Before the end of WWI in November 1918, the Czech-speaking place of Battelau in Moravia had a double-circle Battelau/Batelov canceller with the Czech name on the right-hand side (*above left*). Immediately after the end of World War I *the sequence of names was changed by rotating the date plug*. (I couldn’t find a picture of that cancellation, unfortunately.) Six months later the German name was made illegible by blackening (*above centre*), and another six months later the German name was removed completely leaving just the Czech name on the left-hand side (*above right*). This even happened with cancellers with a serial letter. In the chaos of the time, they didn’t worry about the fact that this letter ended up at the top of the ring in an upside-down position. In Dux, however, they made the effort to re-engrave the serial letter (see Fig. 32, below right).

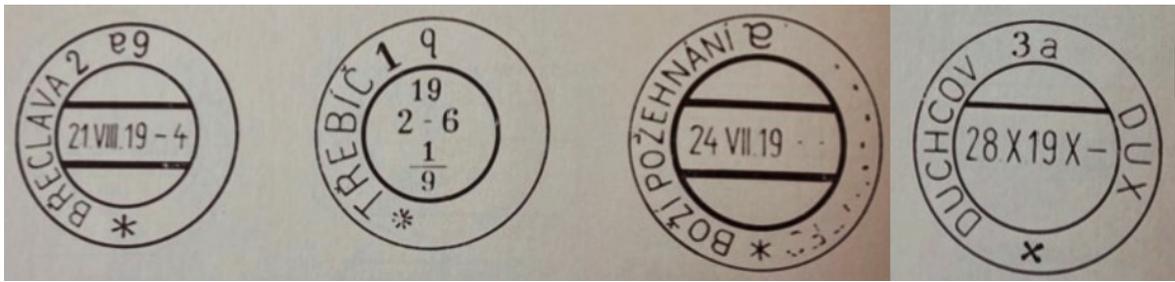


Fig.32.

What is the logic here? Let us see what Votoček [Ref. 6] says about this subject. He shows three examples of double-circle German-Czech cancellations where rotation took place and writes:

The rotation of the date plugs on the original German-Czech cancellers of the above-mentioned type cannot be regarded as typical for the post-Independence Day period. Similar adaptation of cancellers is known from the years preceding 1918. Then it was the easiest and, at the same time, the least conspicuous method, of securing the dominant position for the Czech language on the postmarks.



Fig. 33 'In 1919, the originally German-Czech cancellers were changed into Czech/German ones by rotation of the date plugs' (Votoček, Vol. 16 Part 2, p. 39 – caption quoted from Votoček's Fig. 54.

A very interesting case is the city of Znam/Znojmo. This important German-speaking city was very much in favour of using the German language and their reaction can be seen in Fig. 34. They removed the Czech name! The authorities of the new Czechoslovakia were not very amused and according to Votoček they forced the postmaster to replace the Czech text, probably at his own expense! (Votoček, Volume 16, Part 2, Page 394).

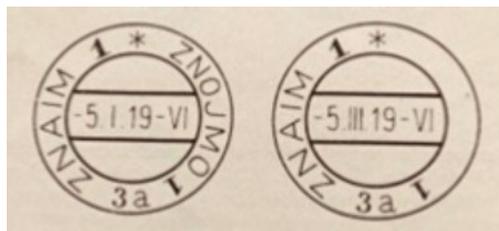


Fig. 34: The original German-Czech postmark from Znojmo and its Germanized form (caption quoted from Votoček).

Some important conclusions can be drawn from these citations. Votoček speaks about the dominant position of the left-hand side and describes them as German-Czech. Obviously he reads the left/right text in this way, with the left-hand side in the starting position which was always felt as the dominant position and which was even the reason why the Czechs wanted to get rid of the cancellers where the German language took the dominant position. Now their language could dominate if they liked by taking the left-hand side of the left/right cancellers.

This idea will have grown gradually which explains the slowly growing number of cancellers with the Czech name at the left-hand side which manifests itself especially in the *Ringsteg* cancellers. If this is true then it is not necessarily the percentage of Czech inhabitants which is decisive but the influence and power

of the ethnic group. So, a place with a majority of Czech inhabitants could be dominated by a smaller group of influential Germans, leading to the German name on the left-hand side. However, this cannot explain the systematic differences between the three provinces. So the provincial authorities must have had a guiding role.

In conclusion

My investigation into the Austro-Hungarian postal cancellations in current Czechia proved very interesting and surprising. Although the continuous and politically motivated language struggle between postmasters and postal officials as suggested by Müller is certainly exaggerated as has been shown, there are still items where the author got excited when exploring this subject.

A number of questions were answered, but others need detailed research into the Austro-Hungarian postal archives or the help of collectors and specialists in this field, for which the author would be very grateful*. The aim of the author was to find an answer to three main questions after reading Müller's article:

1. What conditions were required for a post office to introduce a bilingual top/bottom cancellation in 1871? Müller states that it was necessary that it should be in an important place with two clearly different names in German and Czech. I argue that for this introduction there were actually no conditions.
2. Is it a requirement that in top/bottom cancellations the German name has to be on top and, if so, why are there so many exceptions? According to Müller it *was* a requirement but some postmasters, driven by nationalistic intentions, did not obey this rule, much to the frustration of official bodies who asked the postmasters to follow the rules. I agree with Müller, but make it clear that the important cities did indeed obey the rule upon request by the authorities. However, the authorities turned a blind eye to some places with only a small number of inhabitants (less than 2,000) that opened their post offices after 1867. These offices could use their 'illegal' cancellations with the Czech name on top until the canceller wore out and that was often after 1890.
3. Müller states that the left/right canceller was introduced in 1897 to satisfy Czech wishes for replacement of the bilingual top/bottom canceller. The Czechs felt it was insulting that the German name had to be in the dominant position at the top of the bilingual cancellation and the authorities met their concern by introducing the left/right canceller where no preferred position of names existed. But then Müller adds another condition: the language of the majority of the people in the location of the post office had to appear on the left-hand side. However, because of the construction of the canceller it was possible for the postmaster to put the language he preferred on the left-hand side by rotating the date plug and this led, according to Müller, to nationalistic issues which the authorities wanted to prevent.

I would argue that the left/right canceller was indeed meant to satisfy Czech wishes, but I do not agree that there was a general rule for the majority-language to be on the left-hand side. For example, in 80% of the cancellations in Moravia before 1900 the wrong name appears on the left-hand side and it is impossible to state that 80% of the Moravian postmasters were either too stupid to understand the rules or were politically corrupt. If the position of the name had been important then the authorities would have taken care to make the left/right canceller fraud-proof. As an example, they could have put any asymmetrical symbol instead of one of the stars in the canceller, which would make cheating by rotating the date plug impossible.

In my opinion, the left/right canceller was initially not meant to indicate which language was dominant. It is clear that the policy in this respect was completely different in the three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. On the other hand, it is also clear that gradually the idea grew that the left-hand side of the canceller was the most dominant place, which explains the growing number with the Czech name on that side.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank our son Marc van Loo for critically reading the manuscript. He has done that from the viewpoint of a reader with historical interest, with little or no knowledge about philately. Further, I thank our grandsons, Igor and Kilan van Loo, for making the manuscript computer-ready; in this way they saw postage stamps and cancellations for the first time. I especially thank my wife Mieke for her patience and continuous support during the many hours I spent on this investigation.

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[Lower Belvedere galleries, Andy's photo. "Oh dear, you appear to have killed poor Felix"!]

Tarok, Piquet and Trappola – the parlour games of the 18th and 19th century and their taxation in Austria

By Carsten Mintert

Tarok, Piquet and Trappola are special games, for which you need special types of Playing Cards – as some might already know. But Taxation for Playing Cards – what is this? And how does it fit into the context of our hobby “philately”?

Even in today’s “Internet and computer” century, card games are still very popular among all age groups. Children still play quartets (similar to Happy Families) or trade with Pokémon cards, families play UNO (*card-shedding, with complex rules*) with their own symbols or the traditional European game mau-mau with standard French-suited cards, or “professional” players try to increase their income with Skat or Poker at international championships or Casinos.

Many of these card games have their origins hundreds of years ago. Card Games - where often more strategy than luck was needed (compared to dice games) were the parlour games of past centuries and were played equally by all social classes and we know their game scene from many paintings and etchings: at the court of the nobility, those lovers who have their fortunes told with the help of cards, the lansquenets (*mercenaries*) in the tavern, the soldiers during the breaks in combat, some couples of friends enjoying a leisurely afternoon tea and children playing on the farm. There are also games that someone can play alone (like Patience or Solitaire), with two players (e.g. Piquet) and more players (like Tarok or Bridge). To play these varieties of games the players must have special decks with different numbers of cards (e.g. 32 cards for Skat or Trappola,

General background of “taxes”: To collect taxes for goods or fees for a municipal or governmental service is known for 5000 years until the present. The purpose is to use parts of the private capital to fulfil public duties and responsibilities. About 400 years ago the first country of the world introduced the first revenue stamps and over the next decades many counties in Europe introduced a similar system to put a stamp (signet) on a document (e.g. a receipt, land transaction, baptismal certificate, passport, etc). This stamp was used as a control mechanism by the local authorities to indicate that the duty/fee was paid. Next to the taxation on documents, the government or financial ministry were very creative and new sources of taxes were introduced – like taxes for calendars, newspapers and even also for playing cards. Until mid 19th century these stamps were not the adhesive label (like the postal stamps) but embossed or inked stamps. In most cases the value of the tax/duty, a coat of arms and sometimes a word to indicate the purpose of the tax, was part of that embossed/inked stamp.

German	Hearts 	Bells 	Acorns 	Leaves 
French	Hearts 	Tiles 	Clovers 	Pikes 
Italian	Cups 	Coins 	Clubs 	Swords 

52 cards for Whist or Bridge and up to 78 cards for Tarok). Another variety are the different patterns (see fig. 1, left) and beautiful designed pictures that gives a lot of insight into society and culture of the relevant period and country.

If these cards were produced in Austria, there was one thing in common between the middle of the 18th until the middle of 20th centuries: these cards were all taxed by the government! And to prove that a card maker had paid this tax, an inked stamp (known as a playing card tax stamp) was stamped on one card of each manufactured deck. With this fee, the state was able to increase its financial income (e.g. in 1851 the income from taxed playing cards was 7.2 million Kreuzer = 121,000 Gulden). These fees have been adjusted again and again over the many years and initially differed based on the game (e.g. *Tarok cards were taxed higher*), the quality (*specially smoothed and flattened, or not: this achieved by putting pressure with a press on a polished marble bed plate, in some cases applied special coatings; in later years on the card was run through calender or super-calender rollers to make them smooth, stiff and hard*), the origin (*imported cards were taxed higher*) and later only the number of cards and the quality.

The oldest known ordinance stipulating a playing card tax for Upper and Lower Austria was introduced by the Emperor Ferdinand III [1] and is dated December 20th 1638. In this law, seven different categories of cards and their taxation were listed, e.g.: 10kr for Piquet cards, 5kr for the simple Trappola, 1kr for the small German Cards.



Fig. 2: Playing Card ordinance 1638 with signatures of governor, chancellor, chancellery and treasurer. In the middle is the Imperial seal

For more than 100 years no stamped cards are known. According to current research it is assumed that stamping a card was not yet practiced at all and only the tax was just levied without any additional control mechanism.

With the general reform of 1762 by Empress Maria Theresia, the rules for the taxation for all Austrian and Bohemian hereditary lands became more uniform. Three classes of stamp duty for playing cards were introduced by her, viz: 10 kr. for all foreign imported cards, 7kr for ‘flattened’ Tarok, Trappola and Piquet cards and 2kr for cheap ‘unflattened’ cards. The law also stipulated that sales price must include the tax like 40 kr for a Tarok game or 4 kr for the simple farmer cards. From this early period of the 18th century, cards with a tax (inked) stamps are known but they are all very rare and only less than 50 decks exist in museums or in private collectors’ hands. These first stamps just contain one or two letters to indicate the tax office (e.g. “AS” for Linz/Upper Austria or “G” for Graz/Steiermark) or the coat of arms (like the lion for Bohemia; see fig. 2) but no value of the duty.

Meaning of “Philately” and the link to revenue stamps.
“Philately”- etymology - means the “φιλ = philo“ – ‘loving’ + α privativum which means ‘free’ and the Greek word “τέλος” – ‘duty, fee’. In combination “ατέλος” means ‘the exemption from duty/taxation’ or ‘duty/tax-free’. So “Philately” means ‘the engagement with all of what is duty/tax-free’ and is not limited to the postal stamps. On the contrary – the revenue stamps were once wildly collected and had the same status as postal stamps. Many catalogues appeared at the beginning of the 20th century but then more and more this field lost popularity. Nowadays, revenues have become popular again, giving collectors many possibilities of varieties and potential of unknown items and areas for new researches. Collectors particularly like the fact that revenue stamps are authentic and produced for the declared purpose. No issue has been made just for collectors! The revenue philately has its own FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) Commission and its own class in any stamp exhibitions.

1 * 13. Juli 1608 and † 2. April 1657. Was Archduke of Austria (1621) and King of Hungary (1625) and King of Bohemia and Croatia (1627). From 1637 until his death he was the Holy Roman Emperor.



Fig. 2: Extract of an Animal Tarok from an unknown card maker. The Sküs (highest trump) contains the (7kr.) playing cards tax stamp for Austria-Bohemia.

Only from 1772 onwards do the stamps contain the value like “7x” for 7 Kreuzer (fig. 3). Here the Ace of Heart (for French decks) or the Bell-7 (for German cards) was stamped.

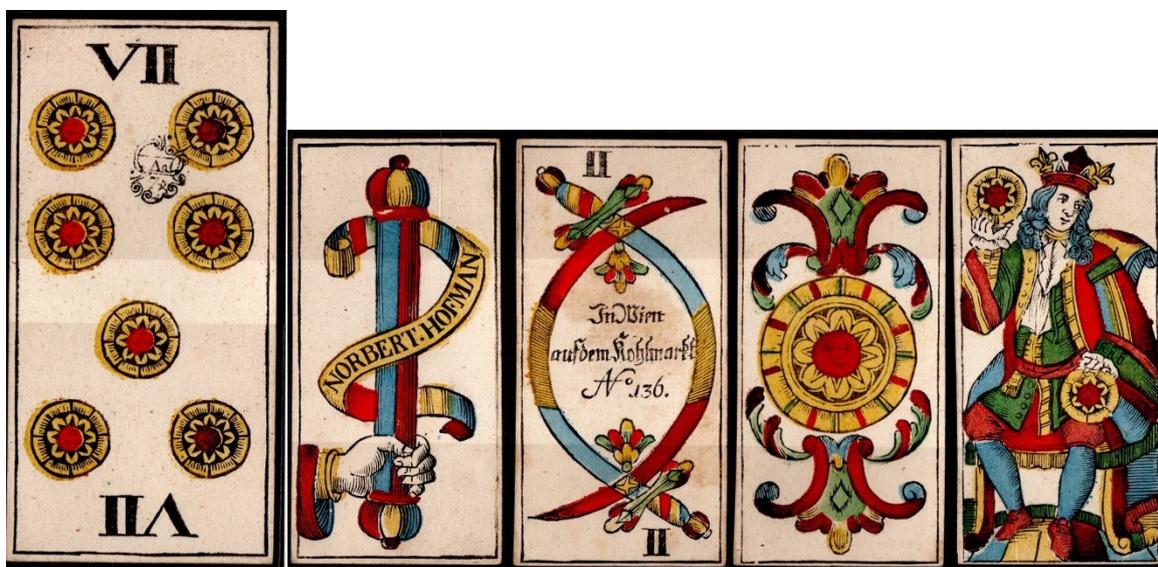


Fig. 3: Large Trappola from the cardmaker Norbert Hofmann (*1746 † 1809) who made his products “In Wien auf dem Kohlmarkt No. 136”. The Bells-7 contains the 7 Kreuzer (7x) playing card tax stamp. The letter “A” indicates the tax office of Lower Austria.

Under Emperor Franz I, the income for the government had to be increased, in particular due to the military conflicts with Napoléon Bonaparte. His issued patent was effective on January 1st 1803, whereas three tax-classes were introduced: 4kr, 10kr and 14kr. This law also described the taxation for calendars and newspapers and the signets were very similar. What was new is that every year a new signet was engraved that contains the year (e.g. 1810) the value (e.g. 10kr) the tax office (e.g. “W” for Vienna, “G” for Graz, “LI” for Linz) and the Word “KARTEN”.

Fig. 4 (below) shows all three values from the tax offices at “W”ien (Vienna) 1825 and “B”rünn 1840. Below as comparison are the Newspaper tax (ZEITUNG 1, 2, 3 Kreuzer - 1835 - Salzburg) and the Calendar tax (Kalend - 1, 3, 6, 12 and 24 Kreuzer - 1826 - Lemberg) which were levied under the same law of Franz I.



Fig. 5: Varieties of the use of the 10 Kreuzer tax: Mini-Piquet, measuring 25 x 37 mm from J. Neidl, Wien dated 1817; and Trappola produced by Wenzel Swoboda in Prague dated 1835.



Fig. 6: 14 Kreuzer on a Tarok – here in red colour dated 1818 and stamped in “Li”nz.



Fig. 7: „Muster Abdrücke von den Karten-Stempel-Signaturen für Prag“. Sample cancellations of the playing-cards tax stamps for Prague” dated 1841 and the 15kr and 20kr stamps. Size: 28.5 x 17 cm

Between Sep. 1840 and 1844 the scale was simplified, based on only two values: 20kr for Tarok and 15kr for all other cards. This was a drastic and unfair increase for the Farmer cards by 200% whereas foreign cards just increased by 7%. Due to public pressure, the lower value of 6kr was then reintroduced in 1845.

From 1850, taxation became more uniform and there was no differentiation between the different card games anymore. Also the annual new design was stopped. Instead, they only differentiated between ‘flattened’ (coated) cards (10kr) and all other cards (5kr). The signets still contain the known letter of the tax office and for the first time this type of taxation was introduced in Hungary (fig. 7).

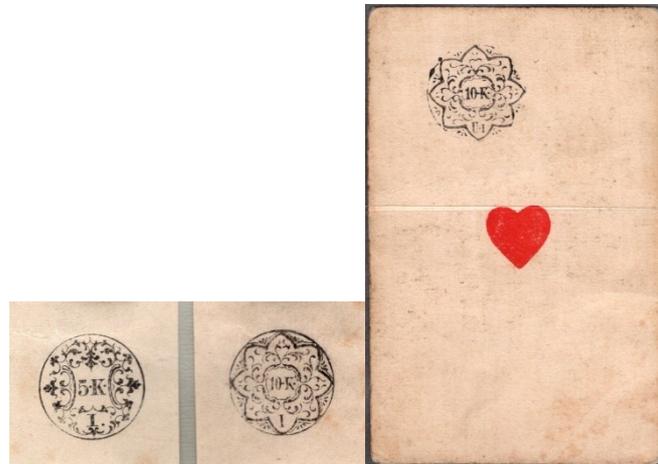


Fig. 7: 5kr and 10kr of the tax office “I”nnsbruck and 10 kr of Ace-of-Hearts of the Tax office “U-I” = Ofen-Pest

But even this simplification was not enough. In 1857 all types of cards were taxed the same at 8kr (Head of Austria - fig. 8) and as a result of the new currency (Neukreuzer, but still called “Kreuzer”) the playing card tax for all types of cards was changed to 1kr for which another signet was introduced 1858 (Double Eagle - fig. 9). A key change was that both signets contain neither the tax + currency nor the letter to indicate the tax office; new was a signet number.



Fig. 8 Signet: (8kr) with the head of the Austria (signet number 57 – used in Vienna). Card producer “Joseph Glanz” – dated 1858.



Fig. 9a: Wrapper in which the cards of the Casino Piquet were included. The two holes were necessary to see the tax stamp (No. 44) and the card producer “Piatnik” of the Ace of Hearts for controlling purpose without opening the packaging.



Fig 9b: Attractive “round cards” imported from Boston-USA to Vienna with 15kr playing card tax stamp Nr. 118.



The first two-coloured card stamp in blue and red was introduced in 1877 with the “K.K. KARTENSTEMPEL” (fig 10).

Fig 10: Double-Eagle in red and circles and inscription in blue. The number “1” is the stamp number. The tax value of 15kr was not shown.

In 1878 the kaiserlich-königliche Hof- und Staatsdruckerei (Imperial - Royal Court and State Printing House) did some trials to introduce adhesive stamps for playing cards (fig. 11). These experiments were made with postal stamp proofs which had been discarded in 1854. The key requirement was that the single card where the adhesive stamp was attached must not be tactile – otherwise the person that deals the cards would benefit from knowing who has the Ace of Hearts. The Staatsdruckerei was successful with their trial but the project as a whole failed. After huge effort, the printing house could not achieve mass-production with their selected methods; Therefore, they discarded the idea of using an adhesive stamp affixed on one card as the control mechanism that the tax was paid and just continued to use the printed inked signet.



Fig. 11: Trial with a 6kr adhesive postal stamp (proofs - not issued) on a real (unprinted) card to check if someone can feel the stamp on a card.

1882 was a special year with two changes: The officials hankered after an additional control mechanism, as the signet on one card (like the Ace of Hearts) was not considered enough. As a result of many trials they introduced a “Verschlussmarke für Spielkarten” in 1882. This was a large adhesive stamp measuring 22 x 4 cm – a kind of

banderole – that was affixed on the back of the packaging of the deck. This “Verschlussmarke” had to be cancelled by the tax office stamp and by the card producer’s imprint. Overall a huge logistical effort!

The second change was the introduction of the new taxation model based only on the number of cards (up to 36 cards and more) and quality (“flattened & smoothed”). (This taxation model was not changed again until the taxation was abolished in 1939) For these combinations 15, 30 and 60kr signets were introduced and the same value was also shown on the Verschlussmarke.



Fig. 11: The large 15kr Verschlussmarke were usually destroyed by opening the wrapper. The stamp was cancelled by the “K.K. CENTRAL. STEMPEL.AMT WIEN” (central tax office Vienna) and the purple imprint of the card producer “C. Titze & Schinikay in the form of an Elephant (see top left of 15kr tax adhesive). The Bells-7 was stamped by the red/blue 15kr signet which you can see through the upper hole of the wrapper.

Right: 30kr and 60kr stamp. The size was cut to fit to the size of the playing card packet. The portrait shown is the one from Emperor Franz Joseph I (* 1830, † 1916).

What happened when a deck – and the corresponding card was stamped but not sold but then a new tax law or a new taxation was introduced afterwards? In such a scenario the cards were not thrown away but the new signet was just stamped next to the outdated one. Such “multiple” taxations are relatively rare (fig. 12).



Fig. 12: Different examples of “multiple” supplementary taxations. 1858 → 1882, 1877 → 1882 and 1920 → 1922 (Inflation)

Another kind of multiple taxation – but called in fact “double-taxation” – exists when the card was produced in a country where cards were also stamped and taxed [1] and then imported to Austria where they were again taxed and stamped, following the local taxation system (and vice versa – i.e. exported cards) – see fig 13.



Fig. 13: Left: Imported deck for children from the card company “Dondorf / Frankfurt”. The upper stamp is the tax stamp “FUNFZIG PF. DEUTSCHES REICH” (50 Pfennig) and below the 15kr Austrian playing card tax (stamp no. 89.) Double-taxations. Right: Exported deck from Vienna to Saxony with “10 NGR. L. KARTENSTEMPEL” (10 Neukreuzer, L = Leipzig)

Rare are the magic cards, fortune-tellers’ cards (Wahrsagekarten) and cards for kids. Over the whole period it was never 100% clear if these special cards were free of the taxation or must be handled in the same way as the cards used for the different games. In most of the laws these special cards were not mentioned and no description was provided. Sometimes the law just says “for any other cards the tax is X Kreuzer”, but that does not seem to be the case, in any period. However in 1897 they introduced a special „Verschlussmarke für Taschenspieler- und Kunststückkarten“ (sealing stamp for conjurer’s and card-trickster’s cards) without any value. It seems that they were never used as they are only known unused. That stamp should be used on a packaging if the producer bought “normal” cards that were already taxed and then manipulated the cards in a way to create a magic card (e.g. by cutting the corner, adding duplicates etc). The magician didn’t like to use cards with the tax stamp, as they couldn’t use this for the tricks where one of the audience must pull a card from a deck, memorise it, put it back hidden in the deck where the trick is for the magician to find that particular card within the deck. If that card were the stamped card he would have a problem.



Fig 14. Verschlussmarke für Taschenspieler- und Kunststückkarten – 1897.



Fig 15: Rare magic cards. The deck almost only contains jack- spade and a few special cards like one with the King of clubs/hearts. 50g Tax stamp of the period 1926-1934.

¹ Known in almost every European country but also in Latin America and other countries of the world, like Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, German States, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and USA.



Fig 16: Fortune-tellers' cards with 60 Heller tax stamp, used during the period 1900 – 1920.

The inflation period between 1922 and 1923 is also interesting. Within one year the taxation was increased three times, overall a thousand times the initial value. The following examples show the changes in the taxation for more than 36 cards with better quality where the tax was increased from 8 K to 8000 Kronen in 11 months:



1920–18. July 1922



19. July 1922 – 31. Jan. 1923



1. Feb. 1923 – 14. June 1923



15. June 1923 – Dec. 1925

For collectors, that period offers a lot of varieties. The printing house had timing issues to renew the “Verschlussmarken” in time to show the increased tax. As an expedient it was allowed to use the older issue, where they overprinted the new value on the old stamp (fig. 17)



Fig 17: Left: Kasino-Pikett with 2000 K Signet and on back the 2 Kronen Verschlussmarke dated 1920 with the 2000 K overprint.

Right: Verschlussmarke dated 1922 with 200 Kronen and „8000 K“ overprint to cover the increased taxation of the latest inflation periods rating 15 June 1923.

With the end of the inflation and the introduction of the new currency “100 Groschen = 1 Schilling” there was again the need to introduce new signets with the adaptations of the value and currency (fig. 18)



Fig. 18: As well as this Verschlussmarke 1926 – 1 Schilling and the corresponding signet, there were 50 Groschen and 2 Schilling values to cover the taxation for the different cards based on the number and quality.

The last issues were made between Oct/Nov. 1934 and 30 September 1939. The signet again contains the Double-Eagle.



Fig. 19: Attractive Kinder-Pikett (deck for kids) where the Jack, Queen and King were designed with children's faces. Taxed by 50 Groschen (Verschlussmarke 1934 and signet on the Ace of Hearts.)

The last playing card tax stamp was introduced in 1934 and was in use until September 1939. In the 2nd Republic there were no more playing card tax stamps!

About the author:

Dipl.-Ing. Carsten Mintert (53 years old) collects Austrian revenue stamps and has been an active exhibitor and author for more than 35 years and a member of our APS since 2012. When he was 18 years old, he showed his first exhibition about the "Austrian Newspaper Tax stamp 1789-1899" in the Youth Class, where he "overstretched" the Jury a bit as they were almost all experienced in Thematic collections but not in "Revenues". As a member of AIJP he published many articles international and is the 2nd Chairman of the German Revenue Association (www.fiskalphilatelie.de) for more than 20 Years. During the FIP Exhibition IBRA '23 in Essen/Germany in May he was the only collector that was allowed to show three Revenue exhibitions which were (i) Newspaper, (ii) Calendar and (iii) Playing Cards. Here he won Gold and Large-Gold. This article was translated into Swedish and appeared in the Magazine "Nordisk FILATELI" No. 5 / 2022. He thanks Martin Brumby for supporting him on the right English phrases+translations. In case you have some inquires he is happy to be contacted at fiskal.mintert@gmail.com.



Carsten in front of his playing card tax exhibition at IBRA '23. Long lasting friendship between Andy + Carsten on revenues and in particular on newspaper taxation.